Editorial

Back to the Future of Rheumatology

The medical cycle of discovery from researcher to editor to reviewer to publisher to researcher and back again — often re-engaging the same players in different roles — is a model for vetting and sharing medical information that inspired longtime *Journal* Editor Duncan Gordon[1] (Figure 1).

Little did anyone know at that time — not Duncan Gordon, the associate editors, reviewers, and authors — to what extent the discovery process would speed up and multiply itself, in particular with the emergence of electronic resource networks on the Internet.

Today, electronic resources are apparent at every stage of the discovery process from submission to post publication. Following on implementation of the DOI to assign a unique digital content identifier to each published report came the ORCID, a unique digital identifier for authors, which is now a registration option when submitting manuscripts to *The Journal*; and when publicly funded authors submit a manuscript to *The Journal*, they can select from the names of funders in the Fundref database, another digital "authority." As a Select Deposit publisher, *The Journal* exports manuscripts on behalf of publicly funded authors who are required to deposit to PubMed Central or European PubMed Central. Implementing identification "authorities" promotes unambiguous, accurate identification and attribution to ensure continued discoverability in a global information environment that has become increasingly complex. Regarding attribution to multicenter studies where data are provided by non-author contributors, their metadata are now included in the metadata exported to PubMed and indexed on Medline.

On the distribution side, *The Journal of Rheumatology* has already seen 2 generations of electronic publishing: First, *The Journal*'s inhouse-published online edition from
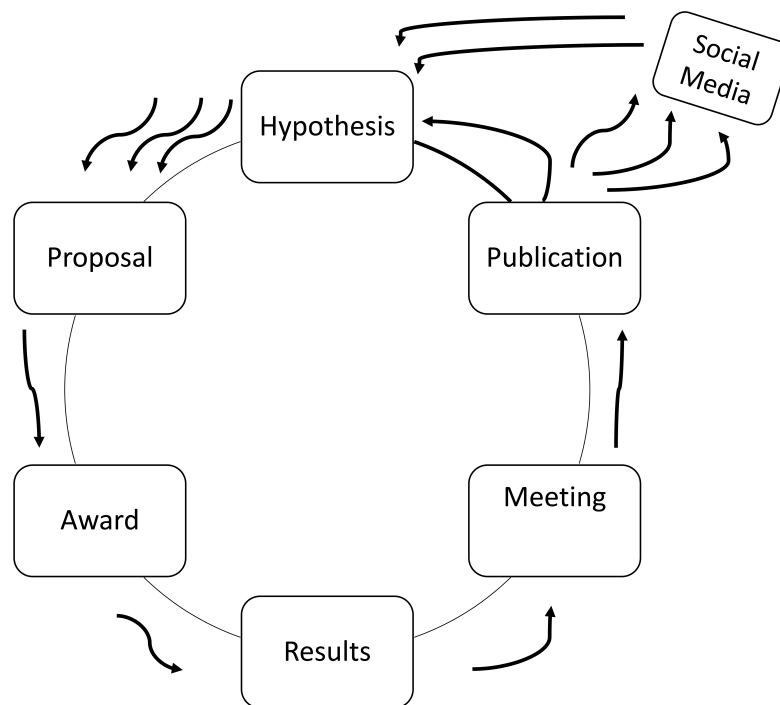

Figure 1. The medical discovery cycle; adapted with permission[1].